

POLREP #3
SOPHIA BATTERY DUMP SITE
INTERSECTION OF RUBLE STREET AND WEST RAILROAD AVENUE
SOPHIA, RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
EVENT: SAMPLING ASSESSMENT
ATTN: RRC, CHARLIE KLEEMAN

I. SITUATION (1700 HOURS, MONDAY, 21 AUGUST 2000)

- A. On 27 January 1998, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) responded to a complaint from an employee of Sophia Water Department. During excavation of a water line on West Railroad Avenue, the water department discovered plastic battery cases buried in the ground up to a depth of six feet. WVDEP contacted the property owner, [REDACTED], and obtained permission to collect samples from the property.
- B. WVDEP collected water and soil samples from a nearby resident and from the excavation pit. The results from sample collection conducted by WVDEP revealed that there were elevated levels of lead in the water and soil. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDOH) issued a water advisory in the area.
- C. As a result, the neighborhood water lines were flushed repeatedly. Following additional sampling and verification that the lead content in the water was below the MCL, the water advisory was lifted by WVDOH.
- D. WVDEP conducted additional sampling at the site on 11 February 1998 and discovered lead levels up to 7,900 ppm.
- E. On 8 July 1998, WVDEP Tom Blake requested EPA assistance to perform an emergency removal assessment. EPA and SATA conducted a windshield assessment on 22 September 1998 and determined that sampling was necessary.
- F. On 12 July 2000, OSC Kelly was directed to investigate the site and conducted a windshield assessment with START assistance on 23 July 2000. OSC Kelly and START observed numerous battery casings from the railroad tracks adjacent to the site and from West Railroad Avenue. Two runoff streams were located along the embankment of the site. OSC Kelly verified with the Sophia Water Department that these runoff streams lead directly into a tributary of Soak Creek, and subsequently the Ohio River.
- G. OSC Kelly directed START to procure laboratory services and conduct a sampling assessment during the week of 14 August 2000.
- H. START drafted a sampling plan and provided it to OSC Kelly for review. OSC Kelly approved the plan and START arranged for sample shipment on 16 August 2000.
- I. Personnel On-Scene: Monday, 14 August 2000 - EPA-1, START-2.
Tuesday, 15 August 2000 - EPA-1, START-2.
- J. Weather: Monday, 14 August 2000 - Sunny and mild, temperatures in the high 80's.

Tuesday, 15 August 2000 - Partly Cloudy and humid, temps in the high

80's.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

Monday, 14 August 2000

- A. OSC Kelly and START mobilized to the site and conducted a site reconnaissance. In order to minimize the amount of sediment in the water flow, START began to collect water and sediment samples from the farthest locations from site. START collected a total of nine water and sediment samples from locations designated by OSC Kelly. START then collected the tenth and final water sample, which was designated as a field blank. START preserved the samples appropriately with Nitric Acid and ice.**
- B. START collected a soil sample to represent the background soil of the city of Sophia.**
- C. START removed briars and brush from the area surrounding the abandoned battery recycling facility. START surveyed the area and constructed a 45-foot by 180-foot grid. START marked designated sample locations with flags and corresponding coordinates.**
- D. START collected four soil samples from the abandoned battery recycling facility. One grab sample was collected from each of the four sections of the facility.**
- E. START conducted photo and written documentation of all sample locations.**

Tuesday, 15 August 2000

- F. START collected a total of 35 surface and sub-surface soil samples from the designated locations.**
- G. START conducted photo and written documentation of all sample locations.**
- H. START labeled all sample containers and corresponding CLP tags with the proper documentation and secured the samples with vermiculite and ice.**

Wednesday, 16 August 2000

- I. START completed packaging all samples for shipment. START shipped the samples to Sentinel, Inc. in Huntsville, Alabama for Target Analyte List (TAL) Metals analysis.**

III. FUTURE ACTIONS:

- A. OSC Kelly to continue coordination with WVDEP, local, and state officials.**
- B. OSC Kelly and START to receive the analytical results from the sampling event.**
- C. START to prepare a data summary from the analytical results.**
- D. OSC Kelly to determine if removal actions are necessary.**

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